



CITY OF DURHAM

Solid Waste Management Department

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Date: July 7, 2014

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: William “Bo” Ferguson, Deputy City Manager
From: Donald Long, Director Solid Waste Management
Subject: Proposed Fee Ordinance Amendments for the Solid Waste Management Department

Executive Summary

The Solid Waste Management Department (the “Department”) is requesting an ordinance amendment to revise Chapter 14 of the Fee Schedule to reflect the deletion of categories that are no longer relevant, to clarify fee structure language, and to use the appropriate position designations.

In Part 14-101, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) rates for commercial (formerly LCID-Rubble debris), residential customers, and shingles are all the same. It is no longer necessary to list these as single categories. Items number 2 and 3 will be deleted. In Part 14-102, the Bulky item collection language has been clarified to reflect the correct charges for collection. In Part 14-106, Household recycle “bins” will be deleted. The Department has replaced the “bins” with roll-out carts. This language in this Section has also been changed to reflect the correct costs for recycling roll out carts. In Part 14-110, the proposed ordinances substitutes “City Manager” for several references to the Solid Waste Director and to other positions in the department. This change is made because Section 1-2 of the City Code specifies that City Manager includes the City Manager’s designee.

Recommendation

To adopt the Ordinance to Amend Chapter 14 of the Fee Schedule, Setting Fees Charged by the Solid Waste Management Department.

Background

The Solid Waste Management Department is requesting revisions to the existing Fee Schedule in order to properly reflect new tipping fee charges to cover all materials classified as (MSW). The LCID site has been closed for 7 years; therefore having a fee for this area is not needed. Previously, shingles had been listed as a separate category in the fee ordinance, but is now classified as MSW. Therefore, item #3 is being deleted from the Fee Schedule. In the current Fee Schedule, item 5 of Part 14-101 has a charge for residential customers disposing at the Transfer Station. However, the Fee Schedule did not list the specific rates that were actually charged to customers. The Fee Schedule has been corrected to show all rates available for residential customers disposing of MSW and Yard Waste.



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When the current Fee Schedule was written, the Department was using 16-gallon bins for recycling collections. In 2009, the Department had begun using 96-gallon carts to increase the City's recycling efforts and participation. In Section 14-106, the word "bin" is being removed from the Fee Schedule to reflect this change. The language in the current Fee Schedule for roll out cart rentals and Bulky items collections has been cumbersome to explain to customers and sometimes causes confusion; therefore the language is being changed to accurately reflect the explanation for those charges. In regard to the financial impact, 2,316.95 tons (shingles only received in FY 2013-2014) multiplied by \$2 dollars (increase approved by City Council); is being calculated as the approximate amount of revenue loss based on the tonnage realized if the tipping rate is not changed for shingles as a separate item on the current Fee Schedule.

Issues and Analysis

The requested changes are limited to a few specific items and do not affect the fee ordinance whereby new fees are being requested or current fees are changed.

Alternatives

The choice could be to "not approve" the proposed fee ordinance revisions. If Council does not approve the changes, the Fee Schedule will continue to be confusing.

Financial Impact

The City would lose revenue that would be generated by the new tipping fee. To continue to charge for shingles based on the current fee schedule, the City would lose \$4,663.90 in potential new revenues.

SDBE Summary

This item has no known SDBE impact.

Attachments

Changes to Chapter 14 of the Fee Schedule Made by the Proposed Ordinance
Ordinance to Amend Chapter 14 of the Fee Schedule, Setting Fees Charged by the Solid Waste Management Department.